



State Capitol | Lansing, Michigan 48913

PH (517) 373.2413 | FAX (517) 373.5144

www.senate.michigan.gov/gop/senator/allen/

For Immediate Release
February 8, 2006

Contact: Jamie Callahan
1-866-525-5637

Sen. Allen introduces land conservation legislation

LANSING – Legislation to help promote land preservation was introduced in the Senate today, said Sen. Jason Allen, R-Traverse City.

“Michigan is blessed with an abundance of beautiful country and landscapes,” Allen said. “We are encouraging individuals and businesses to preserve land with incentives to help offset the costs of establishing conservation easements on a piece of property.”

Senate Bill 1038 provides a credit for land that is put in a conservation easement equal to 50 percent of the state equalized value of the land. The legislation is part of a three bill package to encourage land conservation in the state.

The other bills in the package are Senate Bill 317, introduced by Sen. Tony Stamas, R-Midland, and Senate Bill 1004, introduced by Sen. Michelle McManus, R-Lake Leelanau. SB 317 would provide a similar credit as provided in SB 1038 to individuals through an income tax credit. Senate Bill 1004 removes the “pop-up” tax from the lands that are enrolled in qualified conservation easements, however any residences or buildings would still be subject to the “pop up” tax.

The plan addresses the key challenges faced by land conservation. Many of the parcels that individuals are looking to conserve are sought after properties and can carry a substantial market value, making it difficult to afford the potential “pop-up” on the land, in addition to the opportunity cost of putting it into a conservation easement.

“When a state is blessed with natural wonders that we have in Michigan, it is our duty to be good stewards of the land,” Allen said. “These three bills create a program that will help foster a culture of land preservation and allow for the natural beauty of Michigan to remain intact for generations to come.”

SB 1038 was referred to the Senate Committee on Finance.

###